

Seattle, WA • November 12 – 13, 2003

**REGION X
TRIBAL TANF
DIRECTORS
MEETING**

**T E C H N I C A L
A S S I S T A N C E
R E P O R T**

Administration for Children and Families Region X Tribal TANF Directors Meeting

November 12 and 13, 2003
Blanchard Plaza Building
Seattle, Washington

November 12, 2003

Mr. Leo Smith of the Nez Perce Tribe opened the meeting with a blessing. Mr. Steve Henigson, Regional Administrator for Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Region X, welcomed the tribal representatives and provided updates on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) issues.

Tribal representatives introduced themselves and provided summary information about their TANF programs, including highest and lowest caseloads, current TANF caseload, State match percentages, the date their tribal program began, total number of staff, staff titles and number in each position, and details of organization structure. This information was recorded on flip charts for use throughout the meeting. In attendance were tribal representatives from tribes who had not yet started their own TANF programs. They were able to ask questions about the start-up process and important lessons learned from those representatives from established TANF programs.

Tribal representatives also outlined the specific information or concerns they wanted to address during the meeting, and this information was recorded on flip charts to be used during the discussions. The topics raised were in line with the current concerns of those present, and therefore, no major changes were made to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Vince Herberholt, Associate Regional Administrator for Region X, ACF, discussed the Strengthening Healthy Families Initiative with the tribes. Mr. Herberholt provided an article by Wade F. Horn, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, that summarized the administration's goals for the Initiative, as well as providing important research findings related to the benefits of marriage for children and families. Mr. Herberholt emphasized that the Initiative is directed to assist those who choose marriage to increase their chances for a healthy, lasting union through services which have been shown to impact marriage satisfaction and longevity. He explained that ACF is working with a National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) work group to deal with issues of culturally appropriate materials, and acknowledged that most of the services have not been studied in the context of tribal communities.

Mr. Herberholt explained that there is curriculum development within a tribal context taking place in Colorado with a healthy marriage focus. He believes the results of the curriculum will be distributed after it is tested.

The group discussed how the focus on healthy marriages can be challenging from a program perspective because there are so many other critical needs that must be addressed. In addition, there is little experience with implementing this type of Initiative. Mr. Herberholt talked about how community partners may be the service providers in many areas, and outlined the benefits linked to healthy families initiatives. He also outlined possible funding scenarios and encouraged the tribes to look at ways to address the goals of the Initiative.

Mr. Herberholt introduced the new staff member who will be providing technical assistance to the States and tribes as they look at ways to implement services for strengthening families. Ms. Lewissa Swansen,

Program Specialist for the Marriage Initiative, talked to the tribes about her role and the assistance she will provide to them.

Ms. Jan Jensen, Region X Tribal Child Support Program Specialist, led the tribes in a discussion of child support issues and resources, focusing on the connection between Tribal TANF and Child Support. Tribal representatives shared information on the different approaches and assistance States have provided in this area and what they most need from Region X. There was discussion about the challenges of child support enforcement across tribal and other courts, and of establishing effective communication methods with the States. Tribal representatives shared strategies for dealing with jurisdiction and other concerns.

Tribal representatives shared how they are dealing with information system issues. Tribes in Region X have used a variety of software and different approaches to building information systems that will meet Federal reporting requirements, as well as tribal program needs. There was general agreement that it was difficult to find systems that were workable for program administration and Federal purposes. Tribes that have established TANF programs have strong State support in developing information systems. These tribes have the staff infrastructure to handle complicated administrative systems and they reported that they were better able to address some of the information reporting challenges than other tribes.

Ms. Patty Fisher, Region X Financial Operations Specialist, led tribes in a discussion about the Tribal TANF A-133 Audit, including procedures, expectations, and findings. Tribal representatives were able to ask a range of questions about the audit process that allowed more efficient and effective preparation for the audit cycle.

Mr. Steve Henigson, Regional Administrator for ACF Region X, joined the tribes to take questions and track down concerns and issues. He spoke about the Phoenix conference with ACF tribal programs, and the 1-day consultation with The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which facilitated discussion among the tribes and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) representatives. He reviewed the administration's TANF proposals and discussed how TANF reauthorization was unlikely to have a significant impact on tribal TANF programs. Tribal representatives discussed their perceptions of the proposed bills that may arise during the reauthorization process, as well as the implications of various provisions. Representatives shared how their programs were preparing for changes they believed might be on the horizon. There was some discussion of the impact TANF reauthorization might have on the States, and how this might impact tribes that have yet become tribal TANF providers.

Tribes concluded the day with a discussion of tribal TANF program issues, including the strategies being used to deal with case management challenges, services for "hard-to-serve" clients, ways to serve clients in remote areas, job retention and wage progression issues, and access to effective drug and alcohol treatment. Representatives also discussed information systems issues in more detail.

November 13, 2003

Mr. Oscar Tanner, Grants Policy Specialist for ACF, joined the meeting via telephone to answer questions about reporting and information that the tribes must provide to HHS. The discussion centered on possible changes and the impact changes may have on tribes, ways that reporting could be made easier for the programs, and how requests for technical assistance with reporting issues could best be dealt with. Mr. Tanner provided his best estimates on when changes would take place and the ways tribes might want to prepare.

Mr. Don Shircel, Tanana Chiefs Conference, led a discussion regarding the National Tribal TANF Association. He provided tribal representatives materials on the goals and history of the association. Several representatives who have attended key meetings related to the association were able to share their perceptions regarding the need for the association and how much impact they believed it might have. There was discussion about the funding of the association and the proposed by laws. The summary of the association's vision was described in the materials, as "We would like to build a national association that can coordinate and undertake broad national initiatives that would be difficult for

individual tribes to complete or achieve, in order to foster the growth and expansion of Tribal TANF and ensure its success. This historical influx of funding into Indian Country will help tribes achieve unprecedented self-reliance. The success of Tribal TANF and ensuring communication of that success to the grantor, is imperative to maintain funding and secure the future of Tribal TANF.”

Ms. Beverly Clarno, Regional Director of Region X, HHS, came to the meeting to welcome the tribal representatives and to express the support of the administration for the work tribes were doing in building successful TANF programs. She noted the importance of the meeting as a forum to help Region X staff understand and address the needs of the tribes.

Ms. Cindy Fairchild, Benefit Issuance Director, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, described how her tribe has approached the administration of Medicaid, food stamps, and other benefits. Ms. Fairchild noted that they have seen sovereignty as the foundation of what they have done with the programs. The tribe decided to take on food stamps and Medicaid in 1998, and opted for a waiver with the Healthcare Financing Administration. Because Federal legislation prohibits tribes from the administration of food stamps, the State contracted with the tribe. The tribe administers State programs and provides access and resources for tribal members. Because State social services are State regulated and county administered, there are existing structures in place to support this arrangement. For administrative purposes, the tribe becomes county 88 in a State with 87 counties. This satisfies information systems and legal purposes, while in negotiations and program administration, the sovereignty of the tribe is respected.

The tribe has State computer access, which helps in delivering a wide range of services to tribal members. The tribe offers extended transition so that families get help with child care for an extended period and rarely have to come back on TANF because of child care problems. Both cash benefits and food stamps are on Electronic Benefit Cards. They have exceeded county standards in program administration and are expected to be looked at very closely during audits.

Tribal representatives had many questions for Ms. Fairchild following her presentation. Because tribes in Region X deal with State regulated, State administered TANF programs, some of the strategies used by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe would be problematic for Region X tribes. However, Ms. Fairchild shared a variety of program strategies and service delivery approaches that could be adapted to a variety of situations.

The group discussed the interface with State representatives and shared information on what is working well and what can be improved from a tribal perspective across the various States. The tribal representatives considering becoming TANF providers were able to ask many questions regarding the interface between tribes and States, and areas to be aware of in negotiations and building effective relationships.

The group discussed best practices and shared program ideas in a variety of areas. Several representatives noted that the information about the tribes posted on flip charts helped in deciding which best practices might be appropriate to try to transfer given caseload size, staff size, and stage of program development.

The meeting ended with wrap-up announcements and a meeting evaluation. It was agreed that the number and diversity of tribes operating TANF programs in Region X made the meeting both very valuable and sometimes not as targeted as preferred. There was discussion about breaking into smaller, more similar groups for certain agenda items so that needs might be addressed more fully. However, there was also strong support for continuing to have most of the meeting include the full diversity of the group, since many members found the group setting to be very valuable.

A P P E N D I X A

Tribal TANF A-133 Audit: Procedures, Expectations and Findings

Patricia L. Fisher, CGFM
Financial Operations Specialist
Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children & Families
Region X
(206) 615-2565
pfisher@acf.hhs.gov

What is an A-133 Audit?

- Audit process is one of the Federal Government's major controls over the propriety of expenditures under grants and cooperative agreements
- Auditors are required to test eligibility, allowable activities and allowable costs
- Single Audit Act of 1984 and Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 mandate audit requirements for State and Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations
- Prescribed in OMB Circular A-133 (Audits of State, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations)
- Members of Congress are supporting more emphasis on the quality and efficiency of A-133 Audits

November 12, 2003

2

Who is Audited?

- Entities receiving \$300,000 or more a year in Federal funds (\$500,000 for fiscal years after December 31, 2003)
- Non-Federal entities that expend less than \$300,000 (\$500,000 for fiscal years after December 31, 2003) are exempt however records must be available for review
- Performed on a Annual Basis
- Program specific audit guides provide auditors with specific guidance with respect to internal control, compliance requirements, suggested audit procedures and audit reporting requirements for major Federal programs
- Auditee is responsible for follow-up and corrective action on all audit findings
- Management Letter may include additional information on programs practices

November 12, 2003

3

Auditee Responsibilities

- Identify all Federal awards received and expended and the Federal programs under which they were received
- Maintain internal control over Federal programs that provides reasonable assurance that the auditee is managing Federal awards in compliance with laws and regulations
- Comply with laws and regulations related to each of its Federal programs
- Prepare appropriate financial statements
- Ensure required audits are properly performed and submitted when due
- Follow up and take corrective action on audit findings, including preparation of a summary schedule of prior audit findings and a corrective action plan

November 12, 2003

4

Regional Office Responsibilities

- Receive audits from NEAR
- Work with Auditors, Grantee and Program Staff to effect an audit resolution based on regulation requirements
- Concur vs. Non-Concur
- Determine if monetary damages will be recovered
- Determine if documentation exists to correct management findings
- Respond to Grantee and ACF Central Office on findings
- Ensure repayment of monetary findings if applicable
- Continue to work with Grantee to prevent repeat findings

November 12, 2003

5

Delinquent Grantees

- Grantees who **Have Not** conducted or provided an annual audit to the Federal Clearinghouse and/or the National External Audit Review Center (NEAR)
- Grantees who do not respond to audit requests can be placed on the "HHS Alert List"
- Sanctions may be imposed against Grantee

November 12, 2003

6

Audit Costs & Sanctions

- Audit Costs are allowable charges to Federal awards per A-133, Section 230. This pertains only to audits required by the Federal government.
- In cases of inability or unwillingness to have an audit, sanctions may be imposed. Sanctions may include:
 - Withholding a percentage of Federal awards until the audit is completed satisfactorily
 - Withholding or disallowing overhead costs
 - Suspending Federal awards until the audit is conducted
 - Converting the grantee to reimbursement method of payment
 - Terminating the Federal award

November 12, 2003

7

What will the Auditor Review?

- Internal Controls
 - Effectiveness and efficiency of operations
 - Reliability of financial reporting
 - Compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- Material noncompliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements
- Known questioned costs greater than \$10,000 for a program
- Circumstances concerning why the auditor's report on compliance for a major program is other than an unqualified opinion
- Known Fraud affecting a Federal award
- Instances where the results of the audit follow-up procedures materially misrepresents the status of any prior audit finding
- Repeat Findings vs. Initial Findings

November 12, 2003

8

Tribal TANF Common Findings

- New Tribal TANF Programs may need additional meetings with ACF Program Personnel to go over the exact requirements of the grant. Recommend procedures be strengthened to ensure management is knowledgeable of the Federal program requirements.
- Tribe did not adequately enforce and document participant work requirements.
 - Recommend procedures be implemented to ensure participant work requirements are sufficiently completed.
 - Recommend procedures be implemented to ensure participant work requirements are supported by adequate documentation.
- Tribe did not file the Tribal TANF Data Report for a specific year. Recommend required reports be completed and filed timely with the appropriate agencies in order to continue receiving Federal awards.

November 12, 2003

9

Tribal TANF Common Findings (cont.)

- Three participants did not have a social security card in their participant file.
 - Recommend procedures be strengthened to ensure participant files are accurate and complete.
 - Recommend all files contain the participant's social security card.
- Personal Responsibility Contracts were unsigned or missing from the participant files. Recommend procedures be strengthened to ensure all participants sign a Personal Responsibility Contract.
- Several weekly time reports were unsigned by participants and the instructors. Recommend procedures be strengthened to ensure weekly time reports are completed, signed and properly maintained.

November 12, 2003

10

Transmitting Checks to the Program Support Center (PSC) for Payment of Outstanding ACF Debts

- PSC has advised us that a large number of checks it receives from grantees for payment of outstanding ACF debts have been transmitted to them without the proper identifying information:
 - Grantees Name
 - Grantees Number
 - Audit report Common Identification Number (CIN)
 - Fiscal year of outstanding debt
 - Copy of Audit Determination Letter from Regional Office
- Checks lacking adequate identifying information are placed in a "miscellaneous account"
- Please advise your Regional Office Contact when payment has been sent to PSC

November 12, 2003

11

Remit Checks To:

HHS/Program Support Center
 Attention: Elvis Davis
 5600 Fisher Lane
 Room 16-A-12
 Rockville, MD 20857

Building Confidence

- ♦ Work to eliminate repeat audit findings
- ♦ Make sure you have a clear understanding of the audit findings as identified by your auditor
- ♦ Work closely with your Regional Contact on all audit findings. Respond whether the Tribe concurs with the finding or non-concurs. Be specific as to corrective action taken and/or reasons for non-concur.
- ♦ Repay monetary findings by remitting a check. Provide copy of response to your Regional Contact.

November 12, 2003

13

A P P E N D I X B

Region X Tribal TANF Meeting – Seattle, WA November 12-13, 2003

Medicaid, Food Stamps, Child Care Assistance and Child Support Enforcement – State Relationships

Sovereignty

- Tribal Sovereignty is being able to actively and consciously participate in the creation of your own future. If your future is decided by others, you are not really sovereign.
- There is a direct relationship between sovereignty and the capability of Tribal Governments to determine what their future will be.

■ Dr. Eddie Brown, Director, Kathryn Buder Center for American Indian Studies, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

State Law in Place

- Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.05, subdivision 7, shall not require an Indian tribe or band to deny their sovereignty as a requirement or condition of a contract with the state or an agency of the state.

Purpose

- The purpose of this presentation is to show a few examples of how tribes can utilize state computer systems and existing state programs when providing tribally focused, tribally administered programs to their people.
- This can create increased access to human service programs that can be provided on the reservation that are designed around the culture and traditions of the individual tribe.

How it started...

- In 1998, during negotiations with the state of Minnesota regarding Tribal TANF, the Mille Lacs Band included the provision to administer the Food Stamp and Medicaid programs.
- Minnesota Statutes, section 256.01, subdivision 2(g) gives authority for the state to contract with federally recognized Indian tribes with a reservation in Minnesota to the extent necessary for the tribe to operate a federally approved family assistance program or any other program under the supervision of the commissioner.

Other items in contract...

- The state provided the band with the same equipment, software and wiring as the state provides the counties at no charge.
- The state also provides the same bulletins, manuals, training and forms at no cost.
- Shall provide the Band with data collected as available and necessary to complete federally required reports.

Systems Access

- Minnesota Statutes, section 256.014, subdivision 1 gives the authority for tribes to participate in state-operated computer systems related to the management and administration of the food stamp, income maintenance, child support enforcement and medical assistance and general assistance medical care programs.

Utilizing State Systems

- Contract with the state of Minnesota for the following systems:
 1. MAXIS System (TANF & FS)
 2. MMIS System (Medicaid)
 3. PRISM (Child Support)
 4. MEC2 (Child Care Assistance)
 5. MNOSOS/MIS (Employment Services)

MAXIS System

- Case management for TANF; case and person level statistical data.
- Eligibility and Issuance of Cash Assistance Benefits.
- Eligibility and Issuance of Food Benefits.
- Medical Assistance eligibility determinations.
- Runs monthly report and sends appropriate data required for FTANF report. This data must be reviewed and adjusted but is extremely helpful creating the report.
- Has a reports department which will custom build reports as requested by an agency.

MMIS System

- Creation of Medicaid Eligibility.
- Holds all eligibility spans for Medicaid eligibility.
- Enrollment into managed care programs.
- Health Insurance Information and History.
- Health Care Claims History.

PRISM System

- Detailed record of child support enforcement cases.
- Access to payment information.
- Absent parent information.
- Paternity Establishment.
- Inquiry only

MEC2 System

- Creates Child Care Assistance Eligibility determinations and ongoing case management.
- Tracks sliding fee and payment information.

MNOSOS/MIS System

- Tracks employment services/work activity for TANF participants.
 1. Weekly hours of participation.
 2. Type of Activities per participant.
- Sub-system for grant management.

Accounting/Financial Management

- MAXIS issues all cash assistance, diversionary assistance and emergency assistance payments and keeps financial records of each issuance. Records can be managed at the tribal level.
- State invoices the Mille Lacs Band monthly for share of assistance payments.
- Utilize the Electronic Benefit Transfer system (EBT) for issuances. Looks like a credit card. Both cash assistance and food benefits are issued on the cards.

Related Programs: FS

- Gives the ability to administer the Food Stamp program. Contract for both eligibility determinations and ongoing case management for TANF families and members of their households.
- Must comply with quality control reviews, however, the Mille Lacs Band receives the food stamp program enhancement bonus each year the same as a state of Minnesota County for program performance.

Related Programs: MA

- The Mille Lacs Band, partnering with the state of Minnesota, received a Federal waiver to administer the Medicaid program for all TANF and related households.
- Enroll program participants into managed care plans for enhanced program services such as Medica, Blue Plus, UCare, etc.
- Have access to information for all state recipients, allowing the Tribal IHS Clinic and the TANF program to work together to verify eligibility and to assist in gaining health care access for all tribal community members through outreach activities.

Related Programs: Child Care Assistance

- Effective 12/01/03 will begin administering the Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program for the TANF households and Transition year TANF households.
- State of Minnesota will provide training, forms, systems access, and administrative cost reimbursement to the Mille Lacs Band.
- This is being done to increase access to services.

Related Programs: Child Support Enforcement

- Effective 02/01/04 will be placing a Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center employee in the Pine County Child Support Office for training as a Child Support Enforcement Officer. One month later, will place an additional staff in Aitkin County.
- Cost will be shared 50/50 between the Tribe and County.
- Employee will be trained in all aspects of child support enforcement in preparation of administering a Tribal Child Support Enforcement program.

Mille Lacs Band Workforce Center

- Director duties are divided up by activity, not by grant or program.
- Located within the Tribal Workforce Center whose supervision is under the Executive Branch, Division of Education.
- Three Directors: Benefit Issuance, Employment & Training and Higher Education.

Programs Supervised by Benefit Issuance Director

- Tribal TANF:
 1. Cash Assistance
 2. Diversionary Assistance
 3. Emergency Assistance
- Medicaid Program
- Food Stamp Program

Programs (continued)

- Welfare Assistance Programs
 1. General Assistance
 2. Tribal Work Experience
 3. Child Assistance/Foster Care
- Elder Supplemental Income Program
 1. Cash Assistance
 2. Financial Advocacy
 3. Elder Home Care Assistance
- Child Support Initiative

Programs (continued)

- Child Care Initiative
 1. Child Care Assistance
 2. Family Child Care Home Licensing
 3. Registered Legal Non-Licensed Care
- PL102-477 Initiative
 1. Plan Development and Amendment
 2. Financial Management and Reporting
- Summer Youth Employment Program
- Offender Re-Entry Program

Can this be a bad thing?

- Drawbacks:
 1. The state has access to tribal caseload information.
 2. Program has to be tailored to fit the state system where the system cannot be overridden. This is very minimal, esp. when the system is known to the users.

Can this be a good thing?

- Have direct access to the program policies and regulations of the state programs to monitor services available to tribal members living outside Tribal TANF service area.
- Can adjust tribal program to better meet the needs of local service area program participants.
- Can access any file within the state system (within data practices act) so can advocate for tribal members receiving state services more effectively.

File Tracking/History

- Utilizing the state system allows access to related programs for the Welfare Assistance participants as we use the same application forms. Have a referral system set up with counties within service area to coordinate eligibility.
- All tribal members moving into Mille Lacs Tribal TANF service area from area within the state have their files transferred to the tribe so there is access to their program history to better serve the tribal member and no new application required.
- When a tribal member moves out of the service area but remains in the state, file transfers to that program without a new application being required.

Collaborative Effort

- Currently have a Tribal/State/County Collaborative Workgroup that is focusing on Health and Human Service programming.
- Identifying duplication of services.
- Educating each other about our government/departmental structures.
- Developed a program handbook with an organizational flowchart, staff names, titles and phone numbers are attached with programs and services for accessibility.
- Collaborate to maximize resources.
- Establishment of improved working relations.

Thank you.

Cindy Fairchild, Benefit Issuance Director
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Tribal Workforce Center
43408 Oodena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
320-532-7557
cindyf@millelacsojibwe.nsn.us

A P P E N D I X C

“How Child Support Connects to Tribal TANF- Why is It Important?”

November 12, 2003
Jan Jensen
Region X Administration for Children and Families

The Role of Child Support

Child support services can benefit children and custodial and non-custodial parents.

- **Child Support is a critical component of self-sufficiency. It can provide Indian families and children an important means of reaching this goal.**

The Role of Child Support in the Self-Sufficiency Equation

There are numerous points at which child support and TANF programs can coordinate efforts.



The Role of Child Support in the Self-Sufficiency Equation

By improving overall service delivery, the programs can help to increase the number of families who become self-sufficient.



The Role of Child Support in the Self-Sufficiency Equation

Child Support:

- **Provides additional income to families to reduce dependence on government benefits**
- **Promotes parental responsibility**

The Role of Child Support in the Self-Sufficiency Equation

Child Support:

- **Can establish a legal relationship between father and child**



The Role of Child Support in the Self-Sufficiency Equation

This relationship can mean additional income for the family, and a closer connection between father and child



The Role of Child Support in the Self-Sufficiency Equation

Tribes and States that work together will best be able to provide services for Tribal families.

More than ever before, this collaboration is critical.



Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

1. To Receive a TANF Block Grant:

- A State must certify that it *operates a IV-D Child Support Program*
- Tribes are *not required* to operate a child support program

Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

2. Federal Share of Child Support

- States must return approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the child support collected for TANF children to the federal government
- There is NO statutory requirement for tribes to return a federal share of child support collections on TANF cases.

Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

3. Assigning Child Support “Assignment of Support Rights”

Definition:

The legal procedure by which a person receiving public assistance agrees to turn over to the State *[Tribe]* any right to child support, including arrearages, paid by the non-custodial parent in exchange for receipt of a cash assistance grant and other benefits.

Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

3. Assigning Child Support

- State TANF programs *MUST* require clients to assign child support to the state (see Sec. 408 [U.S.C. 608])
- Tribal TANF programs *can decide* whether or not to require clients to assign part or all of the child support.

Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

3. Assigning Child Support

The TANF recipient who has assigned support *does not receive the child support paid* on the case while (s)he receives a cash grant. The payments go to the Tribe or the State.

Tribes and States can then use a portion of said support to defray or recoup the public assistance expenditure.

Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

3. Assigning Child Support

When a *state* collects *child support* for a Tribal TANF recipient:

1. It may treat the money as 'Non-Assistance' and send 100% to the Tribe, *or*

Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

2. It may send the payment to the custodial parent, who is then required to notify the tribe

These options are determined under the TANF agreement between the State and the Tribe.

Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

4. Cooperation with Child Support Agency

- State TANF recipients are *required to cooperate* with the State child support agency by providing known information about the NCP.

Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

- Tribes may decide *whether they want to require a TANF client to cooperate* with the State or Tribal child support program as a condition of eligibility for an assistance grant.

Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

5. Notification of Child Support Payments

- States are required to issue monthly notices to all current or former TANF clients, informing them of the amount of support collected on their behalf.

Key Differences Between State and Tribal Programs

- Tribes are not required to send these notices, however we recommend that the tribe consider developing procedures for this.

What to Do With Monies Collected by Child Support Programs

Tribes have options in how they treat child support collected on behalf of TANF families:

1. Give the *entire amount* of child support to family and reduce the TANF grant by that amount, or...

What to Do With Monies Collected

By Child Support Programs

2. Pass through *all or part* of child support to the family, and the TANF grant amount remains the same, or...
3. Keep the child support to reimburse the Tribe's TANF program (*This is assigned child support*)

Assigned Child Support

Child Support assigned to the tribe can be used to partially offset Tribal TANF expenditures.

But remember...According to **45 CFR 286.155**:

If your tribe decides to require assignment of child support as a condition of eligibility for TANF, your plan must specify:

Assigned Child Support

- a) That any **child support collections** *in excess of the TANF grant* will be paid to the family, and
- b) How child support collected and assigned to the tribe will be used to *further the Tribe's TANF program*, (consistent with 45 CFR 286.45)

Assigned Child Support

This means that there needs to be **consistent and accurate recording of all child support payments received.**



Recording Child Support Payments

Tribes who decide to have the CPs assign child support may want to consider purchasing child support software that can be used in their TANF program.

The software records and tracks non-custodial parent information and child support collections on the individual cases.

Recording Child Support Payments

Other options for accounting of child support include:

- Using a computer database such as Excel
- Purchasing or developing a child support distribution program

Good communication between TANF and Accounting staff is essential.

Recording Child Support Payments

Recording *assigned child support payments* for each TANF recipient is important for a number of reasons.

Recording Child Support Payments



- An individual payment record helps prevent the TANF program from keeping moneys that should be sent to the family

Recording Child Support Payments

- Tribal TANF programs can send a monthly report to each client showing the date and amount of each payment.



Recording Child Support Payments

- If payments aren't recorded on the individual cases, the CPs won't be aware of how much child support is being paid on their family's behalf.



Recording Child Support Payments

- Custodial Parents who have knowledge of child support payments are likely to have more reason to pursue regular payments. They may provide current additional information about the NCP's employment and assets.



Recording Child Support Payments

Knowing about child support could help encourage the CP to leave TANF.



Recording Child Support Payments

If the tribe passes on child support directly to the family (*non-assigned child support*)

- the TANF record must still record the payments to **ensure that the client does not exceed eligibility income.**

Recording Child Support Payments



Future federal audits and program reviews will look at the area of recording and reporting.

Please contact me with any questions.

Jan Jensen
Tribal Child Support
Program Specialist
Phone 206-615-3668
jjensen@acf.hhs.gov

Region X ACF, 2201 6th Ave., MS-70,
Seattle, WA 98121

A P P E N D I X D




Support for Marriage & Family Strengthening in Tribal Communities

Region X Tribal TANF Director's Meeting
November 12, 2003
Seattle, Washington

Vince Herberholt
 Associate Regional Administrator
 ACF Seattle Regional Office
 Phone: (206) 615-3662
 E-Mail: vherberholt@acf.hhs.gov

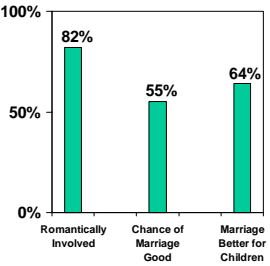
Context for Healthy Marriage Programs

- Research shows that children fare best, on average, growing up with their married parents
- Troubling consequences:
 - 4X as likely to live in poverty
 - more likely to drop out of school
 - more likely to engage in at-risk behavior
 - more likely to suffer emotional or psychological problems
- ACF pursuing multiple strategies
 - Community initiatives
 - Targeted programs
 - Research



Focus on Unwed Parents Around Time of Child's Birth

- Most are romantically involved and have high hopes for marriage
- Believe marriage is better for children
- Open to help with their relationships




Category	Percentage
Romantically Involved	82%
Chance of Marriage Good	55%
Marriage Better for Children	64%

Healthy Marriage Initiative

Objective: help couples who choose marriage for themselves develop the knowledge and skills necessary to form and sustain healthy marriage.

- **Justification**
 - Reduces the need for TANF & CSE
 - Improves the well being of children
- **Demonstrations**
 - Premarital and Marriage Education
 - Counseling
 - Mentoring
 - Media Campaigns
- **Funding Streams**
 - TANF
 - OCS
 - ANA SEDS
 - Safe & Stable Families



Healthy Marriage/Family Strengthening Strategies in Native American Communities

- Work with NICWA
 - Work group
 - Workshop Presentation
- Curriculum Development
- What do you think would be helpful:
 - Skill Building?
 - Education?
 - Demonstration Programs?

